(d) whether this date was subsequently extended upto 10th November, 1991;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether another meeting of the Committee was held on 4th November, 1991; and

(g) if so, what was the necessity of giving extension when the report of the Committee was already with Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (g) The Expert Committee on Electropathy/Electrohomoeopathy system of medicine submitted the proceedings of their meeting on 27-8-91. In the absence of a report on the terms of reference for which the Committee was constituted, they were asked to furnish the same; the tenure of the Committee was also extended upto 10-11-91. The Committee's report was received on 4-11-91 but could not be considered owing to the matter being subjudice.

Spurious and Substandard Ayurvedic Drugs

1426. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Ayurvedic Drugs are not covered under the purview of Drug Control Act, as a result of which spurious/substandard Ayurvedic Drugs are pumped into the market;

(b) whether Government have any laboratory to test such drugs; and

(c) what steps Government contemplate to control and regulate the quality of these Ayurvedic Drugs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) No, Sir.

Ayurvedic drugs are covered under the purview of Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All States have appointed Drug Controllers for Indian medicines alongwith other personnel for the purpose.

Malpractice by Physicians/Medical Practitioners

1427. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of malpractice committed by Physicians/Medical Practitioners by directly selling/distributing medicines to the patients, without holding any qualification/licence under Drugs Control Act to do so;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that this malpractice leads to distribution of fake/substandard/spurious medicines as most of the Medical Sales representatives are not registered; and

(c) if so, what steps Government contemplate to do away/regulate this practice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (c) Under Section 42 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948, no person other than a registered pharmacist shall compound, prepare, mix or dispense any medicine on the prescription of a medical practitioner. However, a medical practitioner may dispense medicine for his own patients or with the general or special sanction of the State Government, for the patients of another medical practitioner.

AIDS spread among teenage studends in Tamil Nadu

1428. SHRI BALBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the spread of the dreaded scourage AIDS among teenage students in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what effective steps have been taken/proposed to be taken for containing its further spread, in consultation with the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) "Government is aware of reports appearing in cer-